

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 040600Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4245

S E C R E T JIDDA 2420

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN SAUD ON LEBANON

1. LEBANON WAS INITIAL TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN CALL BY
AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER ON PRINCE
SAUD APRIL 3. SAUD SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE CEASE-
FIRE AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN ROLE IN SEEKING
A RESOLUTION. HE ALSO INDICATED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR
POSSIBLE UNILATERAL INTRODUCTION OF SYRIAN MILITARY FORCES
SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY TO STOP THE FIGHTING AND LEAD THE
WAY TO A SOLUTION. IN THAT CASE, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
UP TO U.S. TO RESTRAIN THE ISRAELIS AND INSURE THAT THEY
WOULD NOT MOVE IN FORCES THEMSELVES. SAUD THOUGHT THE
ISRAELIS WERE, IN FACT, LOOKING FOR PRETEXT TO MOVE INTO
LEBANON.

2. AMBASSADOR AND SOBER ASSURED SAUD THAT OUR INTEREST LIES
IN AGREEMENT AMONG THE LEBANESE ON A BASIC POLITICAL
SOLUTION THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS
IN LEBANON; THAT WE THOUGHT THE POLITICAL COMPROMISE
WORKED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH THE JANUARY CEASE-FIRE
PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR SUCH A SOLUTION, AND THAT WE
CONSIDERED THE SYRIAN ROLE TO HAVE BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY
CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL.

3. AMBASSADOR AND SOBER NOTED THAT WE HAD, INDEED,
CAUTIONED THE ISRAELIS ON THE MATTER OF MILITARY INTER-
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VENTION. WE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT UNI-

LATERAL INTERVENTION BY ANY OUTSIDE FORCE COULD LEAD TO DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES BECAUSE OF LIKELY RETALIATION. WE SHARED SAUD'S HOPE THAT THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE WOULD NOW LEAD TO AN EARLY POLICAL SOLUTION.

4. SAUD AND AMBASSADOR AGREED ON NEED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH ON LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS.

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